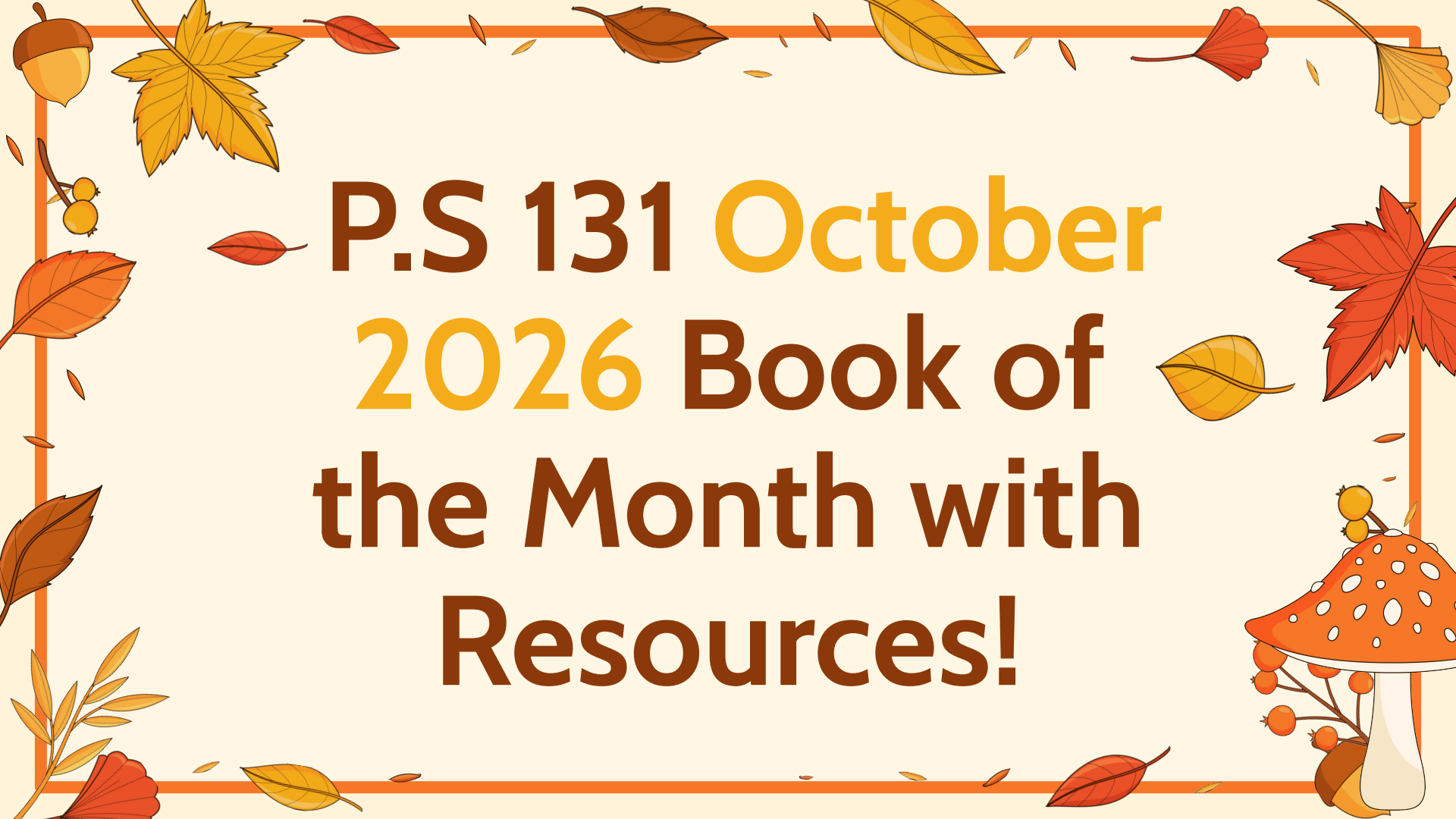


The image features a decorative border with various autumn-themed elements. At the top left is an acorn. Along the top edge are several yellow and orange leaves. On the right side, there is a large red maple leaf and a yellow leaf. At the bottom right is a large red mushroom with white spots and a small branch with orange berries. The bottom left corner has a yellow leaf and a red leaf. The entire border is set against a light orange background.

P.S 131 October 2026 Book of the Month with Resources!

Quote of the Month

“Be yourself. Everyone else is
already taken.”

-Oscar Wilde



Book of the Month



María Mariposa

By Karla Arenas Valenti

Summary

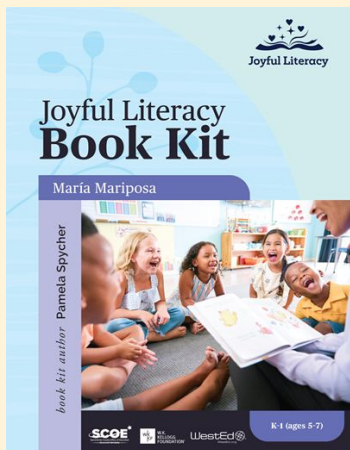


In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, *María Mariposa* tells the story of María on her first day at a new school. When she is feeling anxious, a “mariposa”, or butterfly, arrives to give her confidence and remind her of her home in Mexico. Whenever she faces challenges, the butterfly reminds her of all that makes her unique, and how her culture and heritage give her the inner strength she needs to succeed. *María Mariposa* emphasizes courage, empathy, and friendship, confronts the difficult feelings associated with being new, celebrates Hispanic and Latino identity, and reminds us all to be proud of where we come from and who we are.

Read-Aloud Video



Click for Related Book Activities!



Lesson
Plans

Discussion and
Activities

How can sharing our culture and kindness help us feel happy at school?



Buy the book

María Mariposa
Written by Karla Arenas Valenti
Illustrated by Ana Ramirez González
Published by Chronicle Books, July 16, 2024

Lesson Overview:
This lesson, designed for students in grades 2 through 4, is designed around a read aloud of the book *María Mariposa* by Karla Arenas Valenti. It encourages students to recognize the positive effects of kindness and cultural exchange within their classroom community. This lesson can be used during Hispanic Heritage Month to build cultural awareness, or as part of a Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) activity.

Lesson Objective:
Students will explore the themes of cultural identity, resilience, and the value of kindness. They will examine María Mariposa's experience as a young immigrant and discuss how she navigates and overcomes the challenges on her first day of school, highlighting the significance of embracing cultural identity and practicing kindness.

Family Literacy Activities

María Mariposa
Written by Karla Arenas Valenti
Illustrated by Ana Ramirez González
Ideas for enjoying the book at home
Created by Pam Spycher



About the Book:
María is filled with beautiful memories of her home in Mexico. She knows exactly who she is as she begins school in the United States. But everything at school is different, including the language people speak, and María begins to lose confidence. She wonders if the place she comes from, her community, and the magic she feels inside have a place in this new country.

This story, filled with magical realism, helps us see how with courage and compassion, we can confront the difficult moments and feelings that come with being in a new place. It shows how we can celebrate the magic we all have inside us and what we have to offer the world.

Jump into Joyful Reading!
Invite your child to share their thinking and ask questions as you enjoy the book together. The magic thing is to read by and enjoy one another's company as you read together. Here are some things you can try and do to create a joyful reading experience for your child.

Tip: Ask your local library if they have a copy of the book or as an e-book so you can read the book at home with your child.

Turn the page over for creative expression ideas!

Before Reading:

- What do you notice about the cover?
- What do you think about the title?
- What do you think we will discover in this book?

While Reading:

- What do you notice in the picture?
- What do you think about what we just read?
- What are you curious about now?

After Reading:

- What did you think about the book?
- How did it make you feel?
- What was your favorite part?

Family
Resources

Hispanic
Heritage Ideas

ACTIVITY

Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage month with the following lessons, activities, & more.

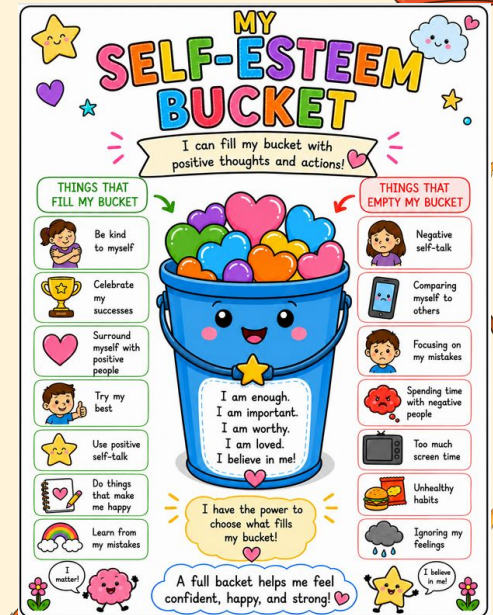


Theme of the Month

Confidence



Confidence is all about believing in yourself and feeling good about yourself, even when something is hard or new.



Theme of the Month:

Confidence

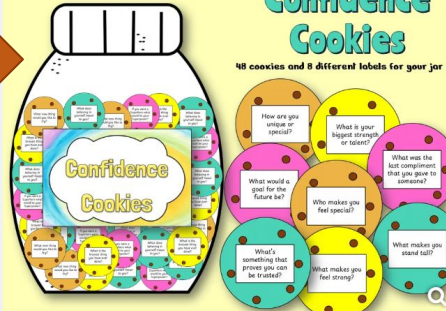
Worksheets
and
Printables

HOW
TO BUILD
CONFIDENCE

Answer each
question to fill
the cookie jar!

Confidence
Cookies

48 cookies and 8 different labels for your jar



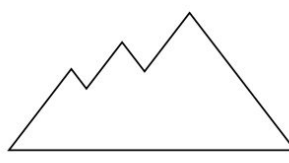
@SonicaEllis
Easy Ways to Build Kids' Confidence



I AM PERSISTANT!

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: DRAW A PICTURE OF YOU OVERCOMING AN OBSTACLE ON THE MOUNTAIN.



DIRECTIONS: WRITE ABOUT A TIME THAT YOU HAD TO STICK TO A DIFFICULT OR CHALLENGING ACTIVITY AND COMPLETE THE TASK!

MAKE A PLAN!

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WANT TO IMPROVE IN, GET BETTER WITH OR JUST KEEP WORKING ON?

DIRECTIONS: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO MAKE A PLAN TO PERSIST AND NEVER GIVE UP ON YOUR GOAL.

WHAT MATERIALS DO YOU NEED TO PRACTICE?

WHERE DO YOU NEED TO BE TO PRACTICE?

HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU PRACTICE?

WHO DO YOU NEED TO HELP YOU PRACTICE?

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

DIRECTIONS: REFLECT. HOW DID YOU PLAN TURN OUT? WERE YOU PERSISTENT?

Habit of Mind: Persisting

INSTEAD OF... TRY SAYING...

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: REWRITES ALL OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW TO SHOW A PERSISTENT MIND. THE FIRST ONE IS DONE FOR YOU!

INSTEAD OF SAYING...	TRY SAYING...
I CAN'T DO IT.	I CAN DO ANYTHING IF I TRY MY BEST!
I GIVE UP.	
I WON'T FINISH THIS IN TIME.	
HE'S BETTER AT THIS PROJECT THAN ME.	
I MISSED THE SOCCER GOAL, AGAIN.	
I DIDN'T GET A GOOD GRADE ON MY MATH TEST.	

DIRECTIONS: WRITE YOUR OWN STATEMENTS!

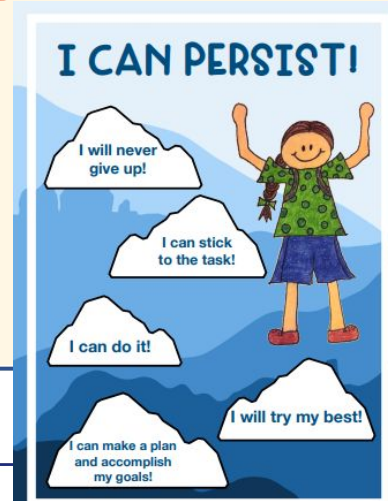
Click to view resources that support **persisting** to succeed, just like María!

Persisting



Stick to it!

Persevering with a task through to completion; remaining focused. Searching for ways to reach your goal when stuck. Not giving up.



Executive Functioning Focus:

Perseverance

Perseverance



Being able to stick with a task and not give up, even when it gets challenging.

--- Examples In Action ---

www.thepathway2success.com

Using strategies to keep working through on a challenging task



Using positive self-talk to stay motivated



Asking for help when you need extra support



Name: _____ Date: _____

Skill 10: Working Through Challenges

Working through challenges means doing your personal best, even when something is hard! Working through challenges is good because it makes us smarter and stronger!

LET'S THINK

When you come across something tough, what can you do? Check off each strategy as you read.

You can:

- ☐ Check the directions again.
- ☐ Stop and think, "What should I do?"
- ☐ Try a different way.
- ☐ Look around and see what others are doing.
- ☐ Try to move on and come back later.
- ☐ Ask a friend for help.
- ☐ Ask an adult for help.



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Name: _____ Date: _____

Skill 10: Working Through Challenges

Challenges can be lots of different things. You might have a tough math test, a fight with a friend, or need to move to a new school. Those are all challenges.

LET'S THINK

Tell about a time you had a challenge that you worked through.

A large empty rectangular box with a yellow border and a small ribbon icon in the top right corner, intended for writing a response.

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I Can Persevere

Work Hard



Use My Strategies



Achieve My Goals



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Limited print copies of “**María Mariposa**” are available for checkout in the school library (Room 212). Please visit or reach out to Ms. Keiser at dkeiser@schools.nyc.gov if you would like to borrow a copy.

